

Application No. 10/817,515
Response dated: February 14, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 18, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A mounting assembly comprising a mounting element for attachment to a surface, a cap engaged with the mounting element, for angular movement relative thereto, and defining therewith a socket with which a part-spherical portion of a support member co-operates to form a ball and socket arrangement, the support member having an arm extending from said part spherical portion through a slot in said cap and being angularly adjustable therealong, the cap being open ended and having a body portion which at its other closed end has a hemispherical internal profile, said open end of the cap being cylindrical and having an annular collar which protrudes radially outwardly from the body portion of the cap, the slot being radial and open-ended, extending inwardly through the annular collar from said open end of the cap, such that the collar is an incomplete annulus, to terminate beyond an uppermost centre point of said closed end of the body portion, and coupling means being engagable with said mounting element in a first state so as to retain the cap in its selected angular orientation relative to the mounting element, and to retain the arm in its selected angular orientation in said slot, and wherein in a released, second state of the coupling means, the cap can be adjustably moved angularly relative to the mounting element, the arm can be moved adjustably along said slot, and the support member can be moved rotationally relative to the cap and mounting element, thereby to adjust the orientation of a mounted object.

2. (Currently Amended) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at each longitudinal end of its arm, the support member has a ball defining said part-spherical portion.

3. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said arrangement of mounting element, cap and coupling means is present at both ends of the support element, such that two ball and socket arrangements are formed.

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4. (Currently Amended) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein one of said two mounting elements is adapted to be fixed, in use, to a surface ~~such as a wall or ceiling~~, and the other mounting element is adapted to be fixed, in use, to an object to be mounted.

5. (Currently Amended) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at one longitudinal end only of its arm, the support member has a ball defining said part-spherical portion.

6. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 5, wherein at the other longitudinal end of its arm, the support member has a screw threaded extension.

7. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said arrangement of mounting element, cap and coupling means is present at said one longitudinal end only of the support member.

8. (Currently Amended) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the mounting element is adapted to be fixed, in use, to a surface ~~such as a wall or ceiling~~, and the screw threaded extension is adapted to connect directly or indirectly, in use, to an object to be mounted.

9. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said ball is integral and rigid with said arm.

10. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the mounting element has a base having a flat outer mounting surface.

11. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the mounting element has a central aperture through which fixing means may pass.

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12. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the mounting element has a circumferential wall which is externally threaded.

13. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the mounting element has a cylindrical spigot portion dispersed concentrically within, and spaced from, said circumferential wall.

14. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 13, when dependent on Claim 10, wherein the spigot portion extends axially outwardly from said base, beyond said circumferential wall.

15. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the spigot portion has an internal surface configured for complementary interfit with a ball of the support member.

16. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 12, when dependent on Claim 10, wherein an internal surface of the base between the circumferential wall and the spigot portion is annular.

17. – 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the slot is radial and closed-ended.

21. (Currently Amended) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the cap is adapted to fit over the spigot portion of the mounting element, to lie radially inwardly from the circumferential wall thereof, the cap having an outer annular collar at an open end thereof, which collar abuts an internal annular surface of the mounting element or a base of the mounting element.

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22. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the coupling means is of annular form.

23. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the coupling means is a nut.

24. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the coupling means has internal threads which co-operate with the external threads of the circumferential wall of the mounting element to engage the coupling means with the mounting element.

25. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the coupling means has an external annular surface which is provided with gripping means facilitating tightening and loosening of the coupling means.

26. (Original) A mounting assembly as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the coupling means has an external annular surface from one end of which a rim extends inwardly.

27. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts for a mounting assembly comprising a mounting element for attachment to a surface, a cap having a slot therein and being engagable with the mounting element for angular movement relative thereto, the cap being open ended and having a body portion which at its other closed end has a hemispherical internal profile, said open end of the cap being cylindrical and having an annular collar which protrudes radially outwardly from the body portion of the cap, the slot being radial and open-ended, extending inwardly through the annular collar from said open end of the cap, such that the collar is an incomplete annulus, to terminate beyond an uppermost centre point of said closed end of the body portion, a support member having a part-spherical portion, the cap, when engaged with said mounting element, in use, defining therewith a socket with which said part-spherical portion of the support member can co-operate to form a ball and socket arrangement, the support member having an arm extending from said part-spherical portion, the arm being intended to extend, in use, through said slot in said cap and to be angularly adjustable therealong, and coupling means

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engagable with said mounting element in a first state so as to retain the cap in its selected angular orientation relative to the mounting element, to retain the support member in its selected orientation relative to the cap and the mounting element, and to retain the arm in its selected orientation in said slot, and wherein in a released, second state of the coupling means the cap can be adjustably moved angularly relative to the mounting element, the arm can be moved adjustably along said slot, and the support member can be adjustably moved rotationally relative to the cap and the mounting element thereby to adjust the orientation of a mounted object.